

COUNTY OF CARTERET BOARD OF ELECTIONS
1702 Live Oak Street, Beaufort, NC 28516
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes, May 5, 2021
9:00 AM

I. Meeting Called to Order

Chair Susan Cuthrell called the meeting to order at 9:00AM.

Board Members Present: Chair Susan Cuthrell, Vice Chair Jeanette Deese, Secretary Gillikin, Member Marjorie Holland, and Member Gerald Godette

Staff Members Present: Director Caitlin Sabadish and Deputy Director Margot Burke

Others Present: Jackie Starkey; News Times, Norma Hall; League of Women Voters, Carol Geer; League of Women Voters

II. Approval of Agenda

Secretary Gillikin made a motion to approve the May 5, 2021 regular meeting agenda. Member Godette seconded the motion and the motion was passed unanimously.

III. Public Comment

Carol Geer asked for an update on the status of the possible delay of the 2021 Municipal Election. Director Sabadish explained that the State Board of Elections has made a recommendation to the legislature to delay the 2021 Municipal Elections due to the delay of the release of the 2020 census data. At this time there is no indication that the legislature is working on a bill to delay the 2021 Municipal Election. Director Sabadish advised Mrs. Geer that the Board of Elections is conducting all of the necessary preparations to hold the 2021 Municipal Election as scheduled, but these plans are still subject to change depending on the legislative decision.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Director Sabadish presented the minutes from the April 7, 2021 Regular Meeting and the minutes from the April 16 Special Meeting for approval. Member Holland made a motion to approve the April 7, 2021 Regular meeting minutes as presented. Vice Chair Deese seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Secretary Gillikin noted an error in that Chair Cuthrell seconded the motion under item II. Approval of Agenda from the April 16, 2021 meeting minutes, when Member Holland seconded the motion. Vice Chair Deese made a motion to approve the April 16, 2021 Special meeting minutes as amended. Member Godette seconded the motion and the motion was passed unanimously.

V. Director's Report

a. Express Vote Update

Director Sabadish advised the Board that approval of the acquisition of new ADA voting equipment has not yet been granted. The verdict has been delayed at the State level due to the discovery of some discrepancies in the quotes that were provided to the counties at-large. According to G.S. 163-165.7(a)(7), vendors are required to quote uniform pricing for each unit of certified voting equipment. The State has found that not all quotes met this requirement and they are currently working with the vendors to reach a resolution. Director Sabadish agreed to keep the Board up to date on the approval process. No formal action was required by the Board.

b. Precinct Official Appointment Update

Director Sabadish and Deputy Director Burke presented a list of experienced Chief Judges and Judges to the Board for their general knowledge. The list was broken down by precinct and included where they worked, where they lived, their party affiliation, job title, and number of years of experience. Member Holland reiterated that the list must go through each political party prior to the precinct official appointments in August. Staff agreed to continue working on the list of names and to also include the political parties to acquire their nominations. No formal action was required by the Board.

VI. Board Comments

Chair Cuthrell opened the floor for Board comments. No action was required by the Board.

Secretary Gillikin

Secretary Gillikin asked that the Board be kept apprised as to the acquisition of the ExpressVotes. She expressed the understanding that precinct official recruitment is challenging and thanked the staff for their diligence in maintaining a balance of party affiliations and compiling a list of credible candidates.

Vice Chair Deese

Vice Chair Deese asked for an update of the progress Sharon Lewis is making with the reorganization of the campaign finance records. Director Sabadish explained that Sharon is working to compile a spreadsheet for the website that includes an overview of each candidate committee and she is gaining more knowledge from Sharon on the campaign finance processes and procedures. Vice Chair Deese also asked for an update on Lerzan Altan's hours accrued in this calendar year. Director Sabadish confirmed that she was monitoring Lerzan's hours to accommodate for the increase work load during the November, 2021 Election. Vice Chair Deese asked staff if they received any updates concerning the FY21-22 recommended budget to be presented to the Board of

Commissioners May, 17, 2021. Director Sabadish explained that she has not received any related correspondence, but agreed to follow up with the finance department regarding the status of the recommended budget.

Member Godette

Member Godette asked staff how employees were selected to work within the office. The Board explained that the recruiting process is managed by the County Human Resources Department and advertised online. Resumés are briefed and selected by HR from these efforts and are then presented to the Board for interviewing and final selection.

VII. Adjournment

Secretary Gillikin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion to adjourn was seconded by Member Godette and the motion was passed unanimously.

Susan Cuthrell, Chair

Jeanette Deese, Vice Chair

Dale Gillikin, Secretary

Marjorie Holland, Member

Gerald Godette, Member